

Message Text

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SECSTATE: PASS COMMERCE, NMFS, FOREIGN FISHERIES

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TAGS: EFIS, OCON

SUBJ: CECAF 1974 MEETING ROME, ITALY

SUMMARY:

CECAF-11974 WAS ONE OF THE MORE PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTED SINCE ITS INCEPTION, DESPITE THE LACK OF ATTENDANCE OF ALL OF THE AFRICAN MEMBERS. IT IS APPARENT THAT MORE AFRICAN MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH KNOWN RESOURCES ARE FEELING SECURE IN THEIR POSITIONS IN THE ORGANIZATION AND OF THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR OWN MARINE ENVIRONMENT. MOST INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN THE NEED FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT, THE NEW CECAF FISHERIES PROGRAM IN DAKAR, AND JOINT VENTURES. ANOTHER ITEM OF INTEREST, TRAINING OF LOCALS, ENGENDERED KEEN INTEREST, WITH THE CERTAINTY OF DISCUSSING AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES FOR TRAINING PERSONNEL TO FILL POSITIONS IN THE ENTIRE INFRASTRUCTURE OF A SUCCESSFUL FISHERY.

1. STOCK ASSESSMENT STUDIES HAVE INDICATED THAT PELAGIO

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STOCKS IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR CAN SAFELY BE INCREASED.

DEMERSAL STOCKS IN THE SAME AREA ARE FOR THE MOST PART, BEING EXPLOITED AT OR NEAR MAXIMUM. THE DATA FROM JAPANESE AND SPANISH FISHERIES FOR CEPHALOPODS, 60 PCT OF WHICH ARE OCTOPUS, INDICATES A DECREASE IN PRODUCTION ALONG WITH THE INTENSIFICATION OF THIS FISHERY DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS. TROPICAL STOCKS OF ANCHOVIES AND MACHEREL COULD BE EXPLOITED FURTHER. THE CECAF AREA SOUTH OF CAMEROON REMAINS RELATIVELY UNKNOWN AND IS APPARENTLY UNEXPLOITED.

2. MANAGEMENT EFFORTS ARE BEING HINDERED BY THE LACK OF SCIENTIFIC DATA AND GENERALLY POOR STATISTICS PROVIDED BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF THE MINIMUM MESH SIZE REGULATIONS FOR HAKE AND SEA BREAM. A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM MESH SIZE FOR SCIAENIDS MET WITH SOME OBJECTION BASED ON THE FACT THAT THESE FISH CONSTITUTE A LOCAL STOCK AND CAN BE REGULATED BY THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. A PRELIMINARY REPORT BY THE TWO FAO CONSULTANTS ON FISHERY STATISTICS WAS GIVEN BY THE CONSULTANTS. THEIR FINAL REPORT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SOON AS IT IS COMPLETED. BRIEFLY, THEY CITED DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING STATISTICS FROM THE CANOE FISHERIES, LARGE FACTORY VESSELS, AND FROM THE NON-COASTAL COUNTRIES WHO ARE USING FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE. A CECAF STATISTICIAN POST WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN ROME AND THE STATISTICAL POSITION IN WEST AFRICA, NOW VACANT, WILL SOON BE FILLED.

3. THE PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE NEW CECAF FISHERIES PROGRAM TO BE HEADQUARTERED IN DAKAR IS M. LEGARE OF CANADA. HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A CANADIAN FISHERIES LABORATORY IN NEW BRUNSWICK. HE GAVE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM'S OBJECTIVES. THE FINAL VERSION OF THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN SENT TO THE UNDP, NEW YORK FOR APPROVAL. UNDP REPRESENTATIVE (RIPLEY) INDICATED APPROVAL BY THE UNDP OVERNING COUNCIL WOULD BE GIVEN IN JANUARY 1975. COPIES OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

4. THE CINECA PROGRAM WAS REVIEWED AND GENERAL DISA-
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POINTMENT WAS EXPRESSED AT THE LACK OF FISHERIES DATA IT PROVIDED. FAO REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED OBJECTIVES WERE TO COLLECT BASIC HYDROLOGICAL DATA WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY BE USEFUL TO FISHERIES SCIENTISTS.

5. EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE NEW CECAF PROGRAM WERE GIVEN; NORWAY REPEATED THAT THEY WOULD GIVE \$200,000/YEAR FOR 5 YEARS. HOWEVER, THIS CONTRIBUTION NEEDS PARLIMENTA-

RY APPROVAL. NORWAY IS ALSO PLANNING TO GIVE \$200,00 TO ANOTHER PROJECT EITHER IN MAURITANIA OR MOROCCO. THE CANADIAN ORGANIZATION CIDA HAS VARIOUS FISHERIES PROGRAMS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH FAO, REPORTEDLY TOTALING \$26 MILLION. PART OF THIS TOTAL WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR CECAF. HARRY WINSOR (FAO) RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE USSR WHERE HE RECEIVED A TENTATIVE COMMITMENT OF \$7 MILLION FOR WORLDWIDE FISHERIES PROJECTS, MUCH OF WHICH WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR EAST AND WEST AFRICA. IN JANUARY 1975, USSR IS GOING TO BEGIN A ONE-YEAR ACCOUSTICAL STUDY OF PELAGIC STOCKS IN THE CECAF AREA SOUTH OF CAMEROON. THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION REQUESTED THEY START WITH HIS COUNTRY. JAPAN, KOREA, POLAND, SPAIN, ITALY, CUBA, AND FRANCE ALL MENTIONED THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AS VARIOOUS COMBINATIONS OF JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENTS, WILLINGNESS TO CARRY LOCAL SCIENTISTS ON THEIR FISHING VESSELS, USE OF TRAINING FACILITIES AND LABO-RATORIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, AND THEY EXPECT THEIR RESEARCH VESSEL WILL DEVOTE MORE EFFORT TO AFRICA. U.S. DELEGATION SAID HIS COUNTRY WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THE FINAL VERSION OF THE PROGRAM PAPER TO ASCERTAIN THE PROGRAM'S REQUIREMENTS BEFORE DECIDING WHERE U.S. ASSISTANCE COULD BE BEST PROVIDED.

6. A GENERAL APPROVAL WAS GIVEN TO CECAF 74/9 REPORT ON JOINT VENTURES. BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST, FAO IS GOING TO EXPAND THIS PUBLICATION WITH JAPANESE ASSISTANCE JAPAN ANNOUNCED THEY HAVE 135 WORLDWIDE FISHERY JOINT VENTURES, 14 OF WHICH ARE IN AFRICA. SPAIN PROPOSED MULTINATIONAL JOINT VENTURES BE FORMED AS AUTONOMOUS SUPRANATIONAL BODIES WITH THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL RULES BEING PLACED ABOVE THE LAWS OF THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. THIS WAS GREETED WITH RESERVATIONS BY MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, UNCLASSIFIED

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ALTHOUGH MOROCCO APPROVED. MOROCCO'S EXPERIENCE WITH JOINT VENTURES HAS REVEALED AN APALLING LACK OF QUALIFIED LOCAL PERSONNEL.

FAO SAID THEY NOW ARE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST JOINT VENTURES BY PROVIDING DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN NEGOTIATIONS; IN BRINGING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE ATTENTION OF INTERESTED FOREIGN ENTERPRISES; AND GIVING GUIDANCE ON VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE PARTICULAR AREA.

7. A NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF SENEGAL, GUINEA ITALY, MOROCCO, NORWAY AND GHANA SELECTED THE NEXT CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMEN AS FOLLOWS: CHAIRMAN, M. ANSA-EMMINS OF GHANA; 1ST V.C. MOROCCO, 2ND V.C. ITALY,

3RD V.C. CUBA.

8. DURING FRED POPPERS WELCOMING REMARKS HE MENTIONED THAT CEEAF MEMBERSHIP WILL BE EXPANDING AND HE SAID "FOR EXAMPLE, PORTUGAL HAS APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP". THIS BROUGHT IMMEDIATE PROTESTS FROM GUINEA AND NIGERIA WITH THE RESULT THAT POPPER IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AGREED TO TABLE PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION FOR THE PRESENT.

9. M. BACABAR DIOP WHO HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL'S FISHING COMPANY SOSAP HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO INDIA AND BANGLADESH. SMITH

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